

P.Klaka

Nowo Radomsker Landsmannschaft **in New York**

The Nowo Radomsker “Society¹” (*Gesellschaft*) in New York has existed for close to fifty years. The founding meeting of the first group of *Nowo Radomsker landsleit* took place in 1898. Over the course of this time, it has been able to become an important factor both in the Jewish life of America itself and in the field of the aid operations for our brothers and sisters overseas. The Nowo Radomsker Society was - and remains - an exemplary, progressive *landsmannschaft* organisation in America.

From the first days of its existence, the *Landsmannschaft* has been the centre where all the *Nowo Radomskers* come together, regardless of their views. Wealthy, middle-class and working people belong to the Society - many of them born in America. The atmosphere of unity and tolerant attitudes towards one another has enabled the Society to develop broad activities.

The membership of the Nowo Radomsker Society has never been satisfied solely with benefit and cemetery insurances, but has also always been awake to all Jewish national issues, has helped bring them to fruition and has generally taken part in the struggle for human rights.

Following the First World War, the Nowo Radomsker Society was one of the first organisations to aid the Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel, and it allocated \$1,200 towards this cause.

When the movement to create *Patronaty* to come to the assistance of the victims of the military-fascist clique in Poland began here in this country, the Society was one of the first to establish a *Nowo Radomsker Patronat*, and it supported it morally with a generous hand.

The Nowo Radomsker Society was one of the initiators and founders of the Jewish People’s Committee² in 1936, which, alongside all the anti-fascist elements here in the country, organised an entire series of public appearances and street demonstrations against antisemitism and fascism.

For its 40th anniversary, in 1939, the Society published a very well-edited 160-page almanac. The almanac was edited by the long-standing active figure of the Nowo Radomsker Society, Mojsze Szwarc, with the assistance of Pinie Kalka³.

The *Nowo Radomsker Almanac* recorded the Society’s history and the aid work which the *Nowo Radomsker landsleit* had carried out for their brethren in their old home. Reports on the Jewish institutions in Nowo Radomsko and biographies of many personalities, both from the old generation and the younger one, were published there.

The book was received with enthusiasm by all the *Nowo Radomsker landsleit* and, with its publication, it was acknowledged as a great contribution to the rich history of the Jewish *landsmannschaften* in America.

¹ [TN: In English in the original, thus the quotation marks and the subsequent translation to Yiddish.]

² [TN: We have not been able to find a mention of an organisation bearing this exact name; it is likely to be a ref. to the “Jewish Labour Committee,” although it was founded in 1934 and not in 1936, as stated here.]

³ [TN: The author of this article and the previous one on Nowo Radomsko.]

Now, following the grisly destruction of the Jewish population in Nowo Radomsko, the *Nowo Radomsker Almanac* is, for the time being, the only remaining modest memorial to the content-rich and full-blooded life of a fine Jewish community that was called Nowo Radomsko.

Thirty Years [of] Nowo Radomsker Relief

The Nowo Radomsker Relief, like an entire array of other institutions, is an offshoot of the Nowo Radomsker Society. The friends and members of this Society dedicated themselves to the work with the greatest love and devotion. The Nowo Radomsker Relief, in a fraternal manner, supported and helped create Nowo Radomsko institutions such as: the *Linas Ha'Tzedek*⁴, the Charitable Loans Fund, secular [Yiddish] kindergartens and primary schools, the Talmud Torah⁵, the *Malbish Arumim*⁶, and an entire array of other institutions that eased the necessity of the poor Jewish populace. Our beloved *landsmann* Sol Grinberg particularly distinguished himself with his large donations.

During the Second World War, when news began to arrive of the horrifying catastrophe of the Jewish People under the rule of the Nazi cannibals, the aid work intensified by many orders of magnitude. In the first year of Hitler's rule in Poland, the Nowo Radomsker Relief sent over \$600 worth of food products through Christian aid organisations. For many of the parcels sent over, confirmation arrived from those to whom they had been sent. The Nowo Radomsker Relief undertook the creation of a fund of \$10,000 to aid the surviving brethren build up their home which had been destroyed. The Relief made contact with the *Nowo Radomsker landsleit* in the liberated countries, such as France, Belgium and the Soviet Union, and sent them aid in the form of parcels of food products.

The Nowo Radomsker Relief established a special fund for orphans, which was named in honour of Manny Szapiro, the warmly-beloved son of the loyal Relief activists Motte and Lajka Szapiro. He fell in Burma as a combatant in the American Army. The father, Motte Szapiro, undertook on his own initiative to create this fund, personally donated the sum of \$200, and raised most of the remaining \$400 on his own.

The Relief, like the whole *Nowo Radomsker Landsmannschaft*, also did not forget the members' children who were with the American Army in all parts of the world. The Relief allocated \$900 for parcels, which were sent periodically to each one, as encouragement in the fight against our bloodiest enemies and the foes of all mankind. Half of the money, which was given for this cause, was donated by the honoured Brother Sol Grinberg.

The following sums, which the *Nowo Radomsker Landsmannschaft* organisation and the Relief contributed to different causes during the years of the War, show the broad scale of the aid work: aid to Nowo Radomsko in 1939 – \$600; support to the Joint, the Children's Fund and the *Matze* Fund [viz. *matzos* for *Peisach*] from 1939 to 1945 – \$1,200; to the Russian War Relief – \$1,000; to the Land of Israel, the Trades Campaign, and the Histadrut – \$400, and to Magen David Adom⁷, the American Red Cross, and the British War Relief – \$200.



Recently, the Nowo Radomsker Relief has formed in Los Angeles, which has already sent \$300 to New York, and has also promised \$100 to the Manny Szapiro Orphans Fund.

⁴ [TN: "Lodgings of Righteousness," a society that provided adequate hospitality for wayfaring guests.]

⁵ [TN: Public cheder (religious primary school) for children from poor families.]

⁶ [TN: "(He who) clothes the naked" (an attribute of God, taken from the "Morning Blessings" liturgy); used as a name for societies that provide the poor with clothing and shoes.]

⁷ [TN: "Red Shield (viz. Star) of David"; Jewish emergency medical service founded in Tel-Aviv in 1930.]

In the Land of Israel, the *Nowo Radomsker landsleit* organised two relief organisations - one in Tel-Aviv and the other in Haifa. The relief organisations in the Land of Israel conduct widespread activity.

The "Victory Committee", which during the War endeavoured to sell as many War Bonds as possible, has now undertaken to create two "Victory Bonds" for each members' son who returned from the War. Sorrowfully, six of the *Landsmannschaft's* children will never return. They fell in the battles against the Nazi and Japanese foes.

A very active and important offshoot of the *Nowo Radomsker Landsmannschaft* is the Ladies Auxiliary, which participates in the undertakings of the Relief and of the Society.

The *Nowo Radomsker Landsmannschaft* also has the Grinberg Loan Fund, from which each member is entitled to borrow the sum of \$35. The Fund gives out these as interest-free loans.

Society Officials in 1945

Dawid Lefkowicz – President;
Sam Epszajn – Past-President;
Maks Goldman – Vice-President;
Charlie Vitrofsky [Wiatrowski?] – Finance Secretary;
Leo Elenberg – Minutes Secretary;
A. Haber – Treasurer;
Motte Szapiro – Hospitality;
Aron Gliksman – Funeral Director;
Maks Ickewicz – *Innerwacher* [?];
Trustees – M. Krauz, M. Zolkowicz and Abram Brokman.

Grinberg Loans Fund Officials

Chairman – A. Zoberman;
Secretary – D. Feder;
Treasurer – Jack Almor.

Relief Officials

Sol Grinberg – Honorary President;
Pinie Kalka – Chairman;
Harry Siedlecki – Vice-Chairman;
Harry Fizman – Assistant Chairman;
Chaskiel Pazanovsky [Pacanowski] – Finance Secretary.

Relief Committee

Jack Almor, Lewi Besterman, Philip Knopf, H.B. Israel, L. Brokman, F. Frisz, A. Lefkowicz, M. Ickowicz, M. Broder, Aron Gliksman, Harry Oberman, Szymon Medwedow, Sam Dykerman, Sam Ickowicz, Abram Haber, Chaskiel Rudnicki, Louie Dykerman, H. Kasau, H. Rotsztajn, Morris Szwarz, Jack Dykerman, A. Krauz, S. Shulum [Szołom?], Abe Zoberman and Karl Elenberg.

A Greeting from the *Nowo Radomsker Landsmannschaft* in New York

The *Nowo Radomsker Landsmannschaft* gladly accepts the invitation of the neighbouring *Częstochower Landsmannschaft* to take part in the historic book *Czenstochover Yidn*, which is being published by the United Czenstochover Relief Committee in New York.

This book will remain the greatest historical document of a *landsmannschaft* - a book of blood and tears. It will be a book cherished by the remaining *landsleit* of Czenstochowa and the vicinity, who are scattered over all parts of the world.

We, *Nowo Radomsker landsleit*, will assist in the work for the book *Czenstochover Yidn* to reach these same thousands of *landsleit* throughout the globe.

We convey our warmest greeting, from the *Nowo Radomskers* who are so close to you. We shall energetically continue the work for the Jews here in America, and especially for the dear Surviving Remnant across the ocean.